

**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
EXAMINING GROUP 2182
PATENT**

**Application # 10/622,259
Attorney Docket # 2002P20760US01 (1009-029)**

REMARKS

The Examiner is respectfully thanked for the consideration provided to this application. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in light of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Each of claims 1, 2, 9, 11, 14, 17-22, 26, and 27 has been amended for at least one reason unrelated to patentability, including at least one of: to explicitly present one or more words, terms, phrases, limitations, and/or elements implicit in the claim as originally written when viewed in light of the specification, thereby not narrowing the scope of the claim; to detect infringement more easily; to enlarge the scope of infringement; to cover different kinds of infringement (direct, indirect, contributory, induced, and/or importation, etc.); to expedite the issuance of a claim of particular current licensing interest; to target the claim to a party currently interested in licensing certain embodiments; to enlarge the royalty base of the claim; to cover a particular product or person in the marketplace; and/or to target the claim to a particular industry.

Claims 1-32 are now pending in this application. Each of claims 1, 2, 9, 14, and 26 are in independent form.

I. The Anticipation Rejections

Each of claims 26 and 28 was rejected as anticipated under 35 U.S.C. 102(b). In support of the rejection, various portions of U.S. Patent No. 5,649,001 ("Thomas") were applied. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections of the present Office Action are moot in light of the present amendment to claim 26. Specifically, claim 26 states, inter alia, yet the applied portions of the relied upon references do not teach, "providing a programmable cable comprising a first end operatively connectable to a network and a second end operatively connectable to a network communications device, a user interface device operatively couplable to a network comprising the programmable cable, a programmable logic controller (PLC), and the network communications device.

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For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully requests a reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 26. Applicant further requests a reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 28, which ultimately depends from claim 26.

II. The Obviousness Rejections

Each of claims 1-25, 27, and 29-32 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over various combinations of Thomas, *Token Ring/IEEE 802.5*, Cisco Systems, Feb. 20, 2002 ("Cisco Systems"), U.S. Patent No. 6,965,802 ("Sexton"), U.S. Patent No. 6,978,319 ("Rostoker"), and/or U.S. Patent Publication No. 20030167391 ("Al-Ali"). Each of these rejections is respectfully traversed.

Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections of the present Office Action are moot in light of the present amendments. Specifically, each of independent claims 1, 2, 14, and 26 state, *inter alia*, yet the applied portions of the relied upon references do not teach, "the plurality of configuration parameters comprising a mode switch parameter adapted to cause a mode switch of said programmable cable to select between a Freeport mode and a PPI mode."

Specifically, independent claim 9 states, *inter alia*, yet the applied portions of the relied upon references do not teach, "a mode switch parameter adapted to cause a mode switch of said programmable cable to select between a Freeport mode and a PPI mode."

For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully requests a reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of each of claims 1, 2, 14, and 26. Applicant further requests a reconsideration and withdrawal of each rejection of claims 3-13, 15-15, 27, and 29-32 each ultimately depending from claim one of 2, 14, and 26.

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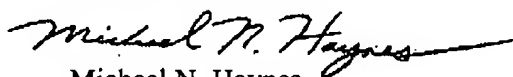
CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the application as amended is in clear condition for allowance. Reconsideration, withdrawal of all grounds of rejection, and issuance of a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 or 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 50-2504. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at 434-972-9988 to discuss any matter regarding this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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